



LESSON I.—JULY 7.

God the Creator of all ThingsGenesis i., 1, to ii., 3. Memory verses,
26, 27. Read John i., 1-3.**Golden Text.**'In the beginning God created the heaven
and the earth.'—Gen. i., 1.**Lesson Text.**

(26) And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (28) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. (29) And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. (30) And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. (31) And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning was the sixth day. (1) Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. (2) And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. (3) And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Suggestions.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. In the beginning was the Word (Jesus Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Thus we see that all things were created by the hand of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The six days of creation were not days of twenty-four hours each. Science and geology have proved that each of these days was an age in which some definite creation was accomplished. When we speak of things that happen in our day, we do not refer to any particular twenty-four hours. Nor when we speak of the day of Nero do we mean to confine him to a seventh part of a week; it was his day as long as he reigned. Much less are the days of God limited, for a thousand years in his sight are but as yesterday when it is passed, and short as a watch in the night. (Psalm xc., 4; II. Peter iii., 8). The first age after the creation of all material, (the nebulous earth and heavens) saw the separation of light from darkness. The second saw the separation of the waters and the making of the firmament, the setting in order of the planets and stars. The third day or age saw the Earth separated from the Seas and the creation of all vegetation, grass, herbs, and fruit trees. On the fourth day God made the lights in the firmament to be for signs and seasons, the sun to rule the day time and the moon and stars to give light at night. On the fifth day God created animal life, first fish and fowl, and on the sixth

day every other kind of living creature, crowning the ages of creation with the most marvellous of all God's handiwork, a living man with a spirit made in the likeness of God's own spirit with every faculty for fellowship with God himself. God created man not in his own bodily likeness, for God is a spirit, and it is only in spirit that we can resemble him and have fellowship with him. Adam and Eve had every faculty for holy and happy fellowship with God but their faculties needed to be trained and cultivated by personal contact with God and exercise in obedience. As long as they obeyed God they were happy. God set Adam and Eve in the beautiful, great Garden of Eden, and gave them rule over all the lower creation and made the birds and beasts subject to them. And God blessed Adam and Eve and gave them the same powers of fruitfulness as have the trees and the birds and the animals. God is the fountain of life, and as he has given life to the world he has given also the sacred powers of reproduction. To Adam and Eve was given the sacred task of the propagation of the human family, a sublime duty which passes from generation to generation and should be undertaken only in the fear of God and the surety of his blessing.

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And on the seventh day God rested, and set apart one day in every seven for man to rest and to enjoy the fellowship with his Creator. We observe Sunday as our day of rest and worship, and those observe it best who come into closest fellowship with God on that day. Our reason for celebrating the first day is that Christ then rose from the dead.

On thee at the Creation,
The light first had its birth;
On thee, for our salvation,
Christ rose from depths of earth;
On thee, our Lord, victorious,
The Spirit sent from heaven;
And thus on thee, most glorious,
A triple light was given.

Lesson Hymn.

The spacious firmament on high,
With all the blue ethereal sky,
And spangled heavens, a shining frame,
Their great Original proclaim.
Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,
Does his Creator's power display;
And publishes to every land
The work of an Almighty hand.

Soon as the evening shades prevail,
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,
And nightly to the listening earth,
Repeats the story of her birth;
While all the stars that round her burn,
And all the planets in their turn,
Confirm the tidings as they roll,
And spread the truth from pole to pole.

What though in solemn silence all
Move round the dark terrestrial ball?
What though no real voice, nor sound,
Amidst their radiant orbs be found?
In reason's ear they all rejoice,
And utter forth a glorious voice;
For ever singing as they shine,
'The Hand that made us is divine.'
—Addison.

C. E. Topic.

Sunday, July 7.—Topic—Religion and patriotism.—Rom. xiii., 1-7.

Junior C. E. Topic.**OUR NATION'S HISTORY.**

Mon., July 1.—God's providence.—Ps. lxxiv., 1-3.

Tues., July 2.—God's wisdom guides us.—Ps. xxxii., 8.

Wed., July 3.—The faith of the fathers.—Ps. xxii., 4.

Thu., July 4.—The joys of union.—Ps. cxxxiii., 1.

Fri., July 5.—Our hope for the future.—Ps. cxliv., 11-15.

Sat., July 6.—The blessings of peace.—Ps. xxix., 11.

Sun., July 7.—Topic—Lessons from our country's history.—Gen. xii., 1-3.

**The Medicine Flask.**

In a pleasant little home in one of the apartment houses on the east of New York, sat a happy young mother with her two children, a little girl of four and a baby boy. The father, who was a small tradesman, was away taking fall orders, it being now about the first of September, but he was expected home the next day, and with a glad heart she held her daughter on her knee and told her, papa would be home in the morning. And the little one laughed and prattled sweetly, and as she knelt to say her 'Now I lay me,' added, 'Please, Do, take care of papa and bring him safe home.'

The mother tucked her up and gave her a good-night kiss, smiling to see the eyelids droop upon the rosy cheeks, then sat down to finish a little dress for her, humming a happy song.

Meanwhile the train sped over the rails, bringing the husband homeward. In the early morning he landed at Jersey City, crossed the ferry, and hurried with joyous steps to greet his wife and children.

The trip had been a success. A goodly number of orders had been secured. There was nothing to mar the pleasure of homecoming.

His wife met him at the door with uplifted finger. 'Hush,' she said, 'the children are not awake yet. Come into the kitchen, and let us have a good talk before Mary is up.'

He set down his bag and hung his overcoat on a chair, first taking a travelling flask from the pocket and laying it on the table.

'Have you needed that?' asked his wife. 'Oh, no,' was the answer. 'Have been perfectly well, but it is a good thing to have in case of trouble. Can do no harm, and may be very useful.'

Then they passed through into the kitchen, and were soon absorbed in happy chat.

How long it lasted they never knew. It was interrupted by a fall in the dining room; and looking in, they saw little Mary senseless upon the floor.

'What can be the matter?' cried the father, catching up the little white figure. 'See, she has on one shoe and stocking. She was dressing, and heard my voice and started to come to me.'

'Oh John,' gasped his wife; 'the whiskey! Look!' and she held up the flask, from which three or four ounces were taken.

The glittering glass had evidently caught Mary's eye, and child-like, she had stopped to taste, though how she swallowed such a draught no one has ever been able to understand. The father sank white and trembling into a chair. The mother caught the child from him and shook her violently to waken her, but in vain. The head fell back and the arms dropped heavily.

'We can do nothing. We must have a doctor!' she cried.

He staggered to his feet and reached for his hat. 'We will take her to one—not wait for one to come,' he said.

The still sleeping baby was hastily given into the care of a neighbor, and wrapping little Mary in a shawl, they rushed into the street. At the end of the block they met a policeman, who told them the quickest help was in Bellevue Hospital, and thither they hastened.

The child was carried into the baby ward, and the fight for life began. All day doctors and nurses worked over the little form, while the sorrowing parents looked helplessly on. A Fifth Avenue physician came and sat by the men, murmuring, 'This is too bad, too bad,' and racked his brain to think of remedies. It was by his order that electricity was applied and oxygen gas poured into the lungs, in the vain hope of preventing the deadly paralysis, which had involved all the rest of the brain, from extending to the motor centres which con-